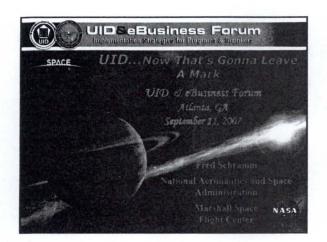
## Abstract UID...Now That's Gonna Leave A Mark

Since 1975 bar codes on products at the retail counter have been accepted as the standard for entering product identity for price determination. Since the beginning of the 21st century, the Data Matrix symbol has become accepted as the bar code format that is marked directly on a part, assembly or product that is durable enough to identify that item for its lifetime. NASA began the studies for direct part marking Data Matrix symbols on parts during the Return to Flight activities after the Challenger Accident. Over the 20 year period that has elapsed since Challenger, a mountain of studies, analyses and focused problem solutions developed by and for NASA have brought about world changing results. NASA Technical Standard 6002 and NASA Handbook 6003 for Direct Part Marking Data Matrix Symbols on Aerospace Parts have formed the basis for most other standards on part marking internationally. NASA and its commercial partners have developed numerous products and methods that addressed the difficulties of collecting part identification in aerospace operations. These products enabled the marking of Data Matrix symbols in virtually every situation and the reading of symbols at great distances, severe angles, under paint and in the dark without a light. Even unmarkable delicate parts now have a process to apply a chemical mixture, recently trademarked as Nanocodes, that can be converted to Data Matrix information through software. The accompanying intellectual property is protected by ten patents, several of which are licensed. Direct marking Data Matrix on NASA parts dramatically decreases data entry errors and the number of parts that go through their life cycle unmarked, two major threats to sound configuration management and flight safety. NASA is said to only have people and stuff with information connecting them. Data Matrix is one of the most significant improvements since Challenger to the safety and reliability of that connection.

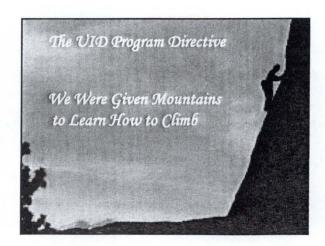


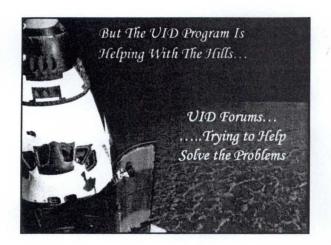


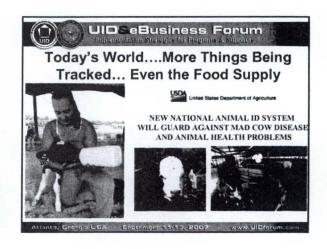




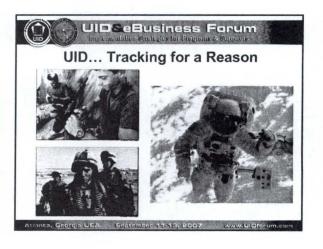




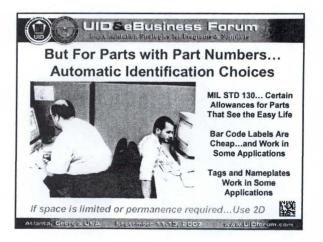














## Our Symbol Content Is Growing Closer

Mil. STD 130M Section 5.2.2.5 National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) NASA aerospace marking standards shall be implemented only for those DoD actions directly supporting NASA programs. When specified in the contract or order, manufacturers that implement the NASA aerospace marking standards shall mark items in accordance with NASA-STD-6002 as applicable. However, syntax and semantics for the Data Matrix symbols must comply with 5.2.4 and 5.2.5. Detailed how-to guidance for implementing NASA-STD-6002 requirements is provided in NASA-HDBK-6003.

NASA STD 6002C Section 4.1.3.2 Current Symbol Data Structure Manufacturers that implement the NASA serospace direct part marking standar shall use marking process requirements in accordance with NASA STD 8002 and syntax and semantics for the Data Matrix symbol content in compliance and syntax and semantics for the Data Matrix symbol content in compiliance with MIL STD 130 sections 5.24 and 5.25. Detailed how-to guidance for implementing NASA-STD-8002 requirements is provided in NASA-HDBK-8003. Data Matrix symbols that are subsequently covered with paint, foam, or other protective coatings shall have the same symbol content requirements as symbols that remain visible throughout their life cycles.

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